

We claim:

1. A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

receiving first stage information and second stage

5 information, the first stage information and the second stage information input at the second stage;

processing the first stage information and the second stage information so that the first stage information is associated with the second stage information; and

10 storing the first stage information and the second stage information in a database, wherein

the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are at least accessible at the second stage.

15 2. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are accessible at the second stage and at  
20 least one successive stage in the supply chain.

3. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first stage is a producer stage and the second stage is a processing stage.

4. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least  
5 a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 3,  
wherein

the first stage information includes at least one of  
producer name, producer address, producer phone number and  
inventory information.

10

5. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least  
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 4,  
wherein

the inventory information includes at least one of crop  
15 type, crop variety, crop moisture, protein and test weight.

6. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least  
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein

20 the second stage information includes at least one of  
planning data, storage data, milling data, packaging data,  
data indicative of yields in production, finished product  
storage data and shipping data.

7. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first stage information is input at the second stage because the first stage is a non-participant in a transactional supply chain system and the second stage is a participant in the transactional supply chain system.

8. A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

receiving first stage agricultural information and second stage agricultural information, the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information input at the second stage;

processing the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information so that the first stage agricultural information is associated with the second stage agricultural information; and

storing the first stage agricultural information and the second stage agricultural information in a database, wherein

the stored first stage agricultural information and the stored second stage agricultural information are at least accessible at the second stage and at least one successive stage in the supply chain,

and the first stage is one of a producer stage and a processing stage, and the second stage is one of a processing stage, a storage stage and a manufacturing stage.

5        9. A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first path of the non-linear supply chain; and

recording a history of a second item traversing a second  
10 path of the non-linear supply chain, wherein

the first path and the second path are a first output and a second output, respectively, of a multi-output stage in the non-linear supply chain.

15        10. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein

the first path includes at least one multi-output stage, the first item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs of the multi-output stage along the first path.

20

11. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein

the second path includes at least one multi-output stage, the second item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs

25 of the multi-output stage along the second path.

12. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

5 associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

10 associating second information applying to another stage with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

13. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 12, wherein

15 the other stage is the multi-output stage.

14. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the

20 second item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to another stage with the second item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

5

15. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and, wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes associating the information applying to the stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item.

16. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and

associating second information applying to another stage with the first item, the second information including at least

one of quantity information, performance information and  
quality information, and wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes  
associating the first information applying to the stage

5 of the non-linear supply chain with the second item and

associating the second information applying to the other  
stage with the second item.

17. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as  
10 set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting the first information and the second  
information to at least one individual of a plurality of  
individuals within or outside the non-linear supply chain, the  
first information and the second information informing the at  
15 least one individual about the history of at least the first  
item.

18. A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the  
method comprising:

20 recording a history of a first item traversing a first  
path of the non-linear supply chain by associating first  
information applying to a first stage of the non-linear supply  
chain with the first item, the first path including the first  
stage and a second stage and the first information including

at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to the second stage with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information; and

recording a history of a second item traversing a second path of the non-linear supply chain by associating the first information applying to the first stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item, the second path including the first stage a third stage, and

associating third information applying to the third stage with the second item, the third information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information; and

transmitting the first information, the second information and the third information to at least one individual of a plurality of individuals within or outside the non-linear supply chain, the first information, the second information and the third information informing the at least one individual about the history of the first item and the second item, wherein

the first stage is a multi-output stage having at least outputs.